

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Kocher et al.  
Serial No.: herewith  
Filed: herewith  
For: OPTICAL CONNECTING DEVICE FOR COUPLING  
CONNECTORS TO AN APPARATUS WITH MULTIPLE  
PORTS  
Art Unit: Not yet assigned  
Examiner: Not yet assigned  
Attorney Docket No.: 20 02 0408  
Customer No.: 27623

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

In accordance with applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, please find attached hereto form PTO-1449 listing information which may be material to the patentability of this application, being filed concurrently herewith. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed:

**XXX** Within three (3) months of the filing date of the national application;

\_\_\_\_\_ Within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application;

\_\_\_\_\_ Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits;

\_\_\_\_\_ After the filing date or date of first Office Action, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, provided that this occurs prior to the issuance of a Notice of Allowance and provided that this I.D.S. is accompanied by either a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p);

After the filing date or date of first Office Action, but before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311, provided that this occurs prior to the final action and provided that this I.D.S. is accompanied by either a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p);

After the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, provided that this occurs prior to the issuance of a Notice of Allowance and provided that this I.D.S. is accompanied by either a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e), a petition requesting consideration of the I.D.S., and the petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1); and

After the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311, provided that this occurs prior to the issuance of a final action and provided that this I.D.S. is accompanied by either a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e), a petition requesting consideration of the I.D.S., and the petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1).

Also enclosed are copies of U.S. Patent Nos. 4,418,983; 5,530,787; and 5,675,682; European Patent Nos. EP 0 929 199 and EP 1 107 031; Japanese Publication Nos. 58058510 and European Search Application No. EP 02 01 8410.

It should be understood that attention has been called to the references that have been deemed to be pertinent to the claimed present invention. In concluding what was pertinent, the criteria employed was considered most appropriate in light of the invention shown in the present application. However, the Examiner or others may deem some other criteria to be just as appropriate or more appropriate. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully urged to review the listed references and to make the usual careful independent search for other prior art that may be pertinent.

Respectfully submitted,



July 21, 2003

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<b>FORM PTO-1449</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION</b>  (Use several sheets if necessary)				Docket Number (Optional) <b>20 02 0408</b>		Application Number <b>Not yet assigned</b>	
				Applicant			
				<b>Kocher et al.</b>			
				Filing Date		Group Art Unit	
				<b>herewith</b>		<b>Not yet assigned</b>	
<b>U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	4,418,983	12/6/83	Bowen et al.	350	96.21		
	5,530,787	6/25/96	Arnett	385	137		
	5,675,682	10/7/97	De Marchi	385	77		
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
						YES	NO
	EP 0 929 199	14.07.99	Europe			X	
	EP 1 107 031	13.06.01	Europe			X	
	JP 58058510	07.04.83	Japan (and abstract)				X
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS</b> (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
	Elflein, W., European Search Report Application No. EP 02 01 8410 dated 12 May 2003.						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.							